Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GEORGE 01135 311922Z
ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 OMB-01 ACDA-10 TRSE-00 INR-05
DODE-00 PM-03 L-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PRS-01 IGA-01
SP-02 EB-03 DHA-02 /055 W
----------010139Z 009630 /70
R 311700Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4727

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 1135

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, GY, US, OVIP (HABIB, PHILLIP)
SUBJECT: BURNHAM INQUIRY CONCERNING UNDER SECRETARY HABIBS VISIT AND TIMERHI BASE AGREEMENT

REF: GEORGETOWN 1108

SUMMARY: DURING RECENT CONVERSATIONS, PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM HAS INQUIRED CONCERNING UNDER SECRETARY HABIBS POSSIBLE VISIT AND REPEATEDLY URGED THAT EW RESPOND SOON CONCERNING THE TERMINATION OF THE TIMERHI AIR BASE AGREEMENT. HIS REACTION TO THE US RESPONSE ON BUDGETARY SUPPORT WAS THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN OPTIMISTIC BUT THAT GUYANAS SITUATION WAS VERY SERIOUS. HE WONDERED WHY THE US WOULD NOT BE INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING HYDRO-POWER IN GUYANA IN VIEW OF PRESIDENT CARTERS STRESS ON ENERGY. HE COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON THE PRESIDENTS MAY 22 SPEECH AND ON US POLICY IN AFRICA. END SUMMARY.

1. DURINB BRIEF EXCHANGES DURING MAY 26 INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS AND A MEETING MAY 30 IN HIS GEORGETOWN RESIDENCE, PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM COMMENTED ON SEVERAL SUBJECTS. MATTERS OF SIGNIFICANCE ARE REPORTED HEREIN.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GEORGE 01135 311922Z

2. ON MAY 30 HE CALLED TO ASK ME TO MEET WITH HIM DURING THE EVENING. DURING OUR MEETING, THE PRIMARY THEMES ON HIS MIND WERE THE POSSIBLE VISIT TO GUYANA OF UNDER SECRETARY PHILLIP HABIB AND THE TERMINATION OF THE TIMERHI AIR BASE AGREEMENT.
3. DURING BURNHAMS MAY 26 LUNCHEON/RECEPTION HE HAD MENTIONED TO ME THAT AMBASSADOR MANN HAD REPORTED THAT UNDER

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

SECRETARY HABIB WOULD VISIT GUYANA IN JUNE. I HAD REPLIED
THAT I UNDERSTOOD THAT THE UNDER SECRETARY MIGHT COME.
DURING OUR MAY 30 MEETING BURNHAM INQUIRED CONCERNING THE
PRECISE DATES OF THE VISIT. I SAID THAT I HAD NO OFFICIAL
CONFIRMATION OF THE VISIT, BUT IT PROBABLY WOULD TAKE PLACE
FOLLOWING THE OASGA IN GRENADA WHICH WOULD END ON JUNE 17.
BURNHAM SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW PRECISELY SO HE COULD
PLAN HIS SCHEDULE AND ARRANGE FOR FONMIN WILLS TO BE BACK
FROM THE COMMONWEALTH MEETING AT THE TIME OF THE VISIT.

4. DURING A MAY 26 TALK BURNHAM HAD ALSO RAISED THE QUESTION
OF THE TERMINATION OF TIMERHI BASE AGREEMENT (BLACKEN-TUMMINIA
TELCON), AND NOW HE INQUIRED AGAIN. I TOLD HIM I HAD
INQUIRED CONCERNING THE STATUS OF THE MATTER AND THAT I
EXPECTED A RESPONSE SOON. HE AGAIN URGED THAT WE RESPOND
FAVORABLY AND SOON, AND REPEATED THAT HE HAD HOPED TO ANNOUNCE
ON MAY 26 THAT AGREEMENT ON TERMINATION HAD BEEN REACHED.
HE SAID HE WANTED TO COORDINATE THE ANNOUNCEMENT
WITH THE US.

5. LAST WEEK AT HIS RECEPTION AND AGAIN ON MAY 30 HE
MENTIONED THE US RESPONSE TO HIS REQUEST FOR BUDGET SUPPORT,
INDICATING THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN OPTIMISTIC. I REVIEWED
AGAIN THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED AND THE FACT THAT A STRONG
RATIONALE FOR SECURITY SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE DID NOT EXIST IN
GUYANAS CASE. BURNHAM AGREED.

6. BUT HE CONTINUED TALKING ABOUT THE SERIOUSNESS OF
GUYANAS PROBLEMS AND CONFIRMED THAT IT LACKED ABOUT US$100
CONFIDENTIAL

MILLION TO CARRY IT THROUGH THE YEAR. IN ONE OF OUR MAY 26
TALKS, HE SAID THAT HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND, IN VIEW OF
PRESIDENT CARTERS DRIVE TO CONSERVE AND INCREASE PRODUCTION
OF ENERGY, WHY THE US WOULD NOT FIND IT IN ITS INTEREST TO
HELP GUYANA BUILD A HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECT.

7. MUCH OF THE REMAINDER OF THE CONVERSATION CONCERNED
DEVELOPMENTS IN AFRICA. HE SPOKE FAVORABLY OF THE CARTER
ADMINISTRATIONS POLICIES AND STATEMENT, BUT REPEATED HIS VIEW
THAT A BLOOD-BATH WILL COME IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. HE PRAISED
PRESIDENT CARTERS MAY 22 SPEECH AS SIGNALING A POSITIVE
CHANGE IN US FOREIGN POLICY WHICH CUT IT LOOSE FROM
HINDRANCES OF THE PAST.

8. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH BURNHAM WAS IN GOOD SPIRITS ON
MAY 26, HE LOOKED TIRED. DURING OUR MAY 30 MEETING HE
AGAIN APPEARED TIRED. HE APPEARS TO BE DEEPLY WORRIED ABOUT
GUYANAS ECONOMIC CRISIS. BURNHAM IS IMPATIENT TO ANNOUNCE
TERMINATION OF THE AIR BASE AGREEMENT.

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

9. PLEASE PROVIDE GUIDANCE CONCERNING UNDER SECRETARY
HABIBS VISIT.
BLACKEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TREATY TERMINATION, VISITS, MILITARY BASES, HYDROELECTRIC POWER PLANTS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GEORGE01135
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770194-0073
Format: TEL
From: GEORGETOWN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977054/aaaaacod.tel
Line Count: 120
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0adfcc8f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 77 GEORGETOWN 1108
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2451937
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BURNHAM INQUIRY CONCERNING UNDER SECRETARY HABIBS VISIT AND TIMERHI BASE AGREEMENT
TAGS: EAID, OVIP, GY, US, (HABIB, PHILLIP), (BURNHAM, L F S)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0adfcc8f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009